

# NavNews



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## CNO praises Navy people, honors aces

courtesy of CNO Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Chief of Naval Operations ADM Jay L. Johnson spoke to a gathering of past and present naval aviators, including former Apollo astronauts, at the Naval Aviation Symposium May 9. The event took place at the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla.

ADM Johnson emphasized the importance of people to naval aviation.

"Our men and women today are the best that they've ever been," he said. "They are intelligent, highly motivated and dedicated to their important work. Quality people have always been the hallmark of naval aviation."

Several were honored at the symposium, including former Navy Apollo astronauts.

"The naval aviators of the Apollo space program made every American walk a lot taller because of your bravery and heroism," he said. "We are in your debt, we are humbled by your accomplishments, and we promise to continue your legacy in keeping naval aviation great."

## CNO addresses Sailors' QDR concerns

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — During recent visits to naval air stations in the southeast, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jay L. Johnson responded to questions about the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). He said, "we used QDR as a good reason to take a close look at ourselves."

Admiral Johnson visited Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss., Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Fla., and Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., May 8 and 9, and met with local community officials, base senior leaders, and conducted all-hands calls with Sailors.

"We used it as a self-assessment. The Navy doesn't need to reinvent itself," he said. "No matter what comes out of QDR, we will be true to our national strategy, Forward...From the Sea, and the Navy Operational Concept. We will do some reshaping, that's for sure, and we will be a leaner, more capable force."

In his continuing efforts to talk to Sailors around the world, Admiral

Johnson also held all-hands calls at NAS Whiting Field and the Naval Air Technical Training Center at NAS Pensacola.

Throughout his visit, Admiral Johnson made efforts to reassure Navy people about the effects of the

Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham and Naval Reserve CDR Willy Driscoll, the first and only jet aces of the Vietnam War, were honored on the eve of the 25th anniversary of their achievement.

On May 10, 1972, then LT Cunningham and LTJG Driscoll found themselves surrounded by enemy MiGs after destroying a target. With two MiG kills in previous engagements, they shot down three additional MiGs in that battle and scored the first triple-kill of the war. In the final engagement of the day, they found themselves pitted against North Vietnam's most experienced and deadly pilot, Col. Toon, credited with 13 American kills.

They defeated Toon but were hit by a surface-to-air missile while returning to USS Constellation. Skill and luck let them guide their damaged plane away from enemy territory so they could be rescued.

"It was truly a great day for the wings of gold," said ADM Johnson. "Randy Cunningham and Willy Driscoll became heroes; their bravery, skill and icy calm in combat is the stuff of which legends are made."

## F/A-18E/F ignites 1,000-flight-hour milestone

NAS PATUXENT RIVER, Md. (NWSA) — The Navy F/A-18E/F Super Hornet test program passed the 1,000 flight-hour mark May 9 during a flight with Integrated Test Team (ITT) pilot CDR Tom Gurney, USN, at the controls.

The team achieved another key milestone May 5, when McDonnell Douglas ITT pilot Phil Pirozzi fired an Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) from a two-seat "F" model.

"The Super Hornet continues to perform in an outstanding manner," said F/A-18 Program Man-

ager CAPT James Godwin, "and the Integrated Test Team at Patuxent River is doing a superb job."

The Super Hornet team is now evaluating the weapon release envelope. The team has tested AIM-7, AIM-9 and AIM-120 air-to-air missiles and SLAM and Harpoon air-to-surface missiles. Other ordnance tests involved ALE-47 flares, a ripple of 10 Mk-82 bombs, dual loads of the CBU-100 Rockeye as well as MK-83 bombs and 480-gallon tanks from the centerline and wing weapons stations.

## Navy Leadership Continuum steers Navy to future

by Art Giberson, NAS Pensacola Gosport Managing Editor

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NWSA) — Additional details of a Navy initiative to make leadership training an integral part of a Navy career were unveiled recently in Pensacola, Fla.

The program, called the Navy Leadership Continuum (LC), "Will ensure both officer and enlisted have identical tools, and that the terminology and procedures are the same for everyone," says Master Chief James Driggers, training program coordinator for enlisted leadership training courses at Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET).

The training is expected to be given to 50,000 Sailors by the end of 1998. It consists of four sequential and progressive courses taken at key milestones during an individual's career.

The enlisted program schedules training at the petty officer 2nd class, petty officer 1st class, chief petty officer and command master chief levels. The officer program follows a similar pattern with training at the division officer, department head, execu-

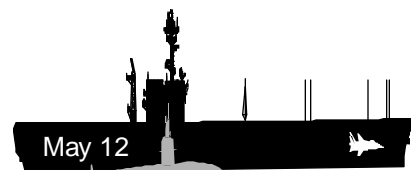
tive officer/senior department head and commanding officer career points.

Leadership Continuum training in fleet concentration areas will be offered on a resident basis — and will include a healthy dose of daily quarters, classroom instruction, personnel inspections and physical fitness training. Training in outlying areas will be done in groups of 12 or more by Mobile Training Teams.

"I've been through a number of leadership courses during my 18 years of service," said Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Robin L. Tucker, a student in one of the first courses taught at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., "but this greatly surpasses anything I've had before. It seems to combine many different aspects of leadership, with the principles of TQL. It's definitely the best leadership course I've ever attended. I wish it was longer."

For additional information about the Navy Leadership Continuum visit the CNET web site at <[www.cnet.navy.mil](http://www.cnet.navy.mil)> or contact Michele Harrison, CNET Media Officer, at (904) 452-4858/59).

## Status of the Navy



### Personnel:

395,876 active duty  
211,118 civilians  
233,998 Ready Reserves:  
97,344 SELRES/136,654 IRR  
Aircraft: 4,754 / Ships: 350  
Underway: 191 ships (55%)  
Deployed: 122 ships (35%) 65,315 personnel  
Exercises: 7 / Port Visits: 9  
SSNs at Sea: 35 (48%)

### Carriers/Airwings at Sea:

USS *Constellation*/CVW 2: transit, Indian Ocean  
USS *John F. Kennedy*/CVW 8: transit, Eastern Atlantic  
USS *Theodore Roosevelt*/CVW 3: port visit, Palma, Spain  
USS *Independence*: transit, South China Sea  
USS *Abraham Lincoln*: local ops, Eastern Pacific  
USS *George Washington*: local ops, Western Atlantic  
USS *John C. Stennis*: local ops, Western Atlantic

### LHAs/LHDs/LPHs/MCS at Sea:

USS *Boxer*/15 MEU: transit, Gulf of Aden  
USS *Kearsarge*/22nd MEU: Ops Guardian Retrieval  
USS *Nassau*/26th MEU: transit, Mid Atlantic  
USS *Belleau Wood*: transit, East China Sea  
USS *Inchon*: ops, Eastern Atlantic  
USS *Guam*: local ops, Eastern Pacific  
USS *Peleliu*: COMPTUEX 97-2M, Eastern Pacific

### Ships Assigned to the Middle East Force:

USS *Thorn*, USS *Nicholas*, USS *Fitzgerald*, USS *Paul F. Foster*, USS *Ingraham*, USS *Ardent*, USS *Dextrous*

### Other Exercises/Operations:

Operation Southern Watch, Arabian Gulf  
Maritime Interception Ops, Arabian Gulf  
Counter Drug Ops, Caribbean/East Pacific  
Exercise Linked Seas 97, eastern Atlantic  
Exercise Neon Spark, Arabian Gulf  
Exercise Eagle Salute, Red Sea

## NAVNEWS



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Editor

JO2 Jeremy E. Allen

Production Manager

JOCS(AW) Gwyneth J. Schultz

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## Summary of NAVADMINs

NAVADMIN 114/97

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Critical Housing Areas (CHA)

## This week in Navy History

*May 17, 1987 — USS Stark (FFG 31), on patrol in the Persian Gulf, is damaged by two missiles fired from an Iraqi aircraft; 37 of her crew are killed.*

# Drinking, driving kills our shipmates

courtesy of The Flagship newspaper, Norfolk

NORFOLK (NWSA) — Commander, Naval Surface Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet, VADM D. J. Katz recently sent this message to the force regarding drinking and driving and the loss of shipmates:

"[May 8] was a sad day for our force. Within the span of one hour, three Sailors were killed in two separate traffic accidents. Three Sailors left behind shipmates, friends and families, all of whom are now wrestling with varying degrees of grief and anger at this needless, senseless and tragic loss. It appears that both accidents were alcohol related. Although we have made great strides in alcohol awareness, some are still not getting the word or don't believe it can happen to them or their friends.

"This is a message to all hands: Your shipmates and friends need your help. No one makes the right decision

all the time, but the odds of making a bad choice increases dramatically after that first drink. In both of the above cases, more than one Sailor was in the vehicle at the time, and it is likely that at some point in the six or so hours before these Sailors died a friend or shipmate could have broken the chain that led to their deaths. You may never know if you've saved someone by getting involved before they do something dumb; you will most certainly wonder for the rest of your life if you choose not to get involved and something tragic happens.

"Nothing I can say in this message can change the past or fill the void the deaths of these Sailors have caused. I can only encourage you to help change the future. Pay attention, make a personal commitment to looking out for your shipmates and friends, and have the courage to do the right thing when you see someone headed in the wrong direction."

## "Linebacker" ships ready to take the field

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Sacking the quarterback, batting down passes and keeping the other side's offense off balance were often the turning points in a games played by famous linebackers like Dick Butkus, Junior Seau or Ray Nitschke.

In the midst of a revolution in naval warfare, the Navy has added a new page to its playbook and brought in two new players ... specially equipped ships code named "Linebacker." The two ships, USS *Lake Erie* (CG 70) and USS *Port Royal* (CG 73), bring the Navy its first at-sea tactical ballistic missile defense (TBMD) system. They have modified combat systems and supporting software and carry the Standard Missile II Block IV-A TBMD missile.

Capitalizing on rapid advancements in missile guidance, propulsion and seeker technology, the Navy has seized the lead in its ability to protect U.S. and allied forces operating inland, as well as debarkation ports and coastal airfields, from ballistic missile attack.

The first test of the system was held last January at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. A

modified Standard missile (DTR-1A) successfully intercepted a Lance missile target playing the role of an incoming ballistic missile aimed at friendly forces.

*Lake Erie* and *Port Royal* will conduct at sea testing, develop core doctrine and tactics, and serve as focal points for putting the TBMD technology in the hands of the warfighters in the rest of the fleet. Sailors on board both ships will provide early feedback to the technical community and influence the final design of the TBMD system.

This close interaction between the Fleet and the technical community will lead to a better overall system and help in the seamless transfer of this significant capability to the Fleet.

These TBMD Linebacker ships will be on the leading edge of one of the Navy's highest priority programs. AEGIS ships were designed and built to be the "shield of the fleet." The TBMD capability that will go to sea in *Lake Erie* and *Port Royal* expands on that role, providing a "shield over joint forces" ashore ... from the sea.

## Independence pilots fly with Air Force in Exercise Merlion

by JOSN Joseph L. Rehana, USS *Independence* Public Affairs

SOUTH CHINA SEA (NWSA) — USS *Independence* (CV 62) participated in "Exercise Merlion" May 6 in the South China Sea following a three-day port visit to Singapore.

*Independence* pilots tested their skills in air-to-air combat training with the U.S. Air Force and the

Republic of Singapore Air Force.

"This was good, high performance training with the U.S. Air Force's state-of-the-art F-16s," said LT Frank J. Czosek, *Independence* coordinator for the exercise. "We came into this exercise with quite a bit of preparation since we were involved in Tandem Thrust (just) recently."

# Navy "Boots" getting new boots

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Recruits and their feet are receiving the benefits of the Navy's extensive research and development program. In this case, ensuring comfort and successful training for Sailors are the goals and the result of the research is new boots.

Designed by researchers at the Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility in Natick, Mass., the new boots are Chukka style and have the safety requirements needed in the Navy. The added features are increased padding in the sole and added padding around the ankles. With less time needed for medical attention on blisters and sore feet, the recruits have more time to concentrate on learning the skills necessary to be successful Sailors.

When Seaman Shaun B. Woodhams, from Fairbanks, Alaska reported to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., in early December 1996, he was issued that new boot.

Now assigned to the Navy's Ceremonial Honor Guard at Anacostia Naval Station, Washington, D.C., Woodhams continues to do plenty of marching, preparing for the many military ceremonies held in the Nation's Capitol

and around the country, but there is no pain involved now and there wasn't any in "boot camp," either.

"When you went through the fitting," Woodhams says, "they really took the time to fit you well. I think that made the difference. No one in my company ever complained about how they fit.

"They 'breathe' well," he adds, referring to the shoes ventilation capabilities, a great value when Sailors are on their feet for long stretches. "And they take a great shine. In boot camp, there was a lot of salt on the roads and sidewalks during the winter and I thought my boots were ruined with all the salt in them. Here at the Guard, they showed me how to clean them up, and now they shine like a mirror - I can see my face in them."

With all the news about ship hardware, computer technology and satellite communications, you might think that more earthly concerns were left behind, but that's not so. Even feet get priority attention when it means a more attentive recruit. With the emphasis on quality of life, this is one change which will ease the transition from civilian to Sailor - and help the newest recruits hit the deck running.

## USS *Groton* returns pitcher to namesake town in Connecticut

GROTON, Conn. (NWSA) — USS *Groton* (SSN 694) took a ceremonial step toward its decommissioning with the return of a commemorative silver pitcher to the Town of Groton, Conn., during a town hall meeting May 6.

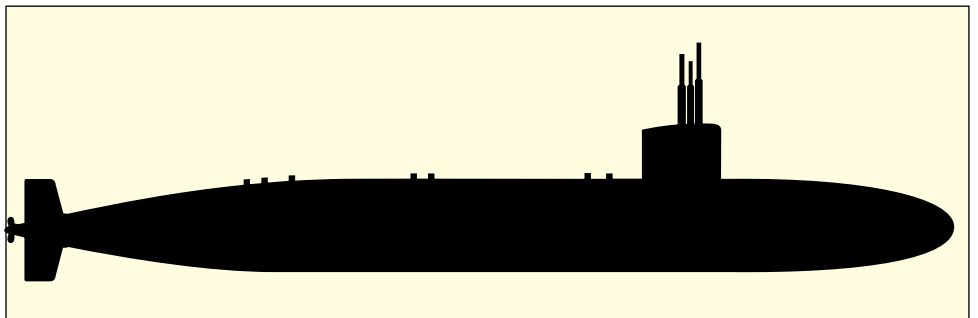
The history of the pitcher reflects the strong bond between the Navy and the Town of Groton. It carries an inscription that commemorates its presentation to the ships named after the city.

CDR Nick Flacco, the attack submarine's commanding officer, handed the pitcher to Groton Mayor Delores Hauber during a ceremony at the meeting. Hilmar Burgess, former crew member of the first USS

*Groton* (PF 29), attended the ceremony.

The pitcher was originally given to the first USS *Groton* in 1943. The World War II patrol frigate was commissioned in 1947 and served in the North Atlantic.

In 1978, the newly-commissioned SSN 694 received the pitcher for display on board the submarine. *Groton* was inactivated Sept. 19, 1996, at Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn. It is scheduled for decommissioning at the end of 1997.



## NATO "Exercise Linked Seas 1997" brings 11 allies together

LISBON, Portugal (NWSA) — U.S. units joined with military forces from 11 other nations for "Exercise Linked Seas 1997," a NATO exercise taking place through May 19 in Spain, Portugal and surrounding waters.

The exercise focuses on peace

support operations by a multinational maritime force, and air and land operations. It is based on a crisis between two fictional countries whose cease fire lines are supervised by NATO. A multinational maritime force is introduced into the area to defuse the crisis and ensure the safety of the NATO land

force on the cease-fire line.

Troops from Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States are participating. Brazil is also participating with the approval of the North Atlantic Council.



## Dental plan enrollees don't always reap benefits

By Douglas J. Gillert, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Defense health officials are concerned that many service families signed up for family dental care aren't actively participating in the program.

"Eighty-six percent of active duty service members have enrolled in the plan," said Air Force Dr. (Col.) Marvin Bennett. "Unfortunately, only approximately 47 percent of those enrolled use the benefit."

The DOD consultant for dentistry said those who pay the monthly pre-

mium but don't follow up with an active dental care program miss out on one of the best dental plans available. "The family dental care program is extremely beneficial, comprehensive and affordable," Bennett said.

The plan, administered by United Concordia Colleges, Inc., costs \$7.19 a month for one and \$17.95 a month for two or more. It covers spouses and children of active duty service members. In addition to paying monthly premiums — automatically deducted from the service member's gross pay — enrollees receive two examinations,

two cleanings, fluoride treatment and X-rays free of charge. For other services, they're charged co-payments that range from 20 percent to 50 percent of total costs. The plan covers costs up to \$1,000 a year for routine dental care and \$1,200 lifetime for orthodontic care.

Congress is considering allowing DOD to expand the benefit to families based overseas, to include waiving co-payments, already a provision of DOD medical care overseas. Bennett said he hopes the overseas plan will be implemented Aug. 1.

## Surface warfare symposium focuses on information technology

by JO1 Diane Jacobs, Naval Postgraduate School Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. (NWSA) — The role of information technology in the 21st century highlighted a surface warfare symposium held recently at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.

RADM John Sigler, deputy and chief of staff for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, gave a presentation titled "Information Technology for the 21st Century," at the session, conducted by the Monterey Bay chapter of the Surface Navy Association.

Referring to the audience and other junior officers as "the information technology generation," Sigler said information plays a critical role in the success of military operations. "Information superiority is the capability to

collect, process and disseminate an uninterrupted flow of information while exploiting or denying an adversary."

Sigler said information technology was proven in the recent joint exercise — "Tandem Thrust" — near Australia. Although ships were separated by more than 500 miles, each was part of the communications and data sharing network. The exercise demonstrated "world-wide conductivity" and "that it's critical everybody be connected, not just surface warfare."

This information technology will become a reality in 1998 for Pacific Fleet ships. Divided into four regions — Japan (and other Western Pacific home ports); Hawaii, California and Washington — all will be connected on a computer network starting with the "metro areas" first. Type commands will follow, then groups and squadrons.

## Hangar fire research sets fire protection standard

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology have released the findings of an extensive aircraft hangar fire protection study.

The study focuses on balanced protection of aircraft and hangars from fire damage and unnecessary exposure to corrosive fire fighting agents.

The two-year research effort involved a team of engineers and researchers from each of the military services and representatives of the U.S. fire alarm and sprinkler industry. Thirty-three fire tests were con-

ducted in aircraft hangars at Naval Air Stations in Barbers Point, Hawaii, and Keflavik, Iceland.

The tests monitored the behavior of heat and smoke in high bay areas and the response time of fire detection and sprinkler systems. The tests also analyzed the effects of ambient temperatures, draft curtains, open and closed hangar doors, and flat and curved ceilings. The tests let the Navy evaluate new technologies and examine deficiencies in existing fire protection criteria.

NAVFAC will use the results for new fire protection criteria for aircraft hangar designs. Features will include closed head sprinklers and low-level

foam systems that give more effective and efficient point-of-source fire protection.

A copy of the NAVFAC and NIST report, describing the test parameters and documents the conclusions and recommendations, can be obtained by contacting Joseph E. Gott, NAVFAC, at (703) 325-0036, fax (703) 325-4450, e-mail <jegott@hq.navfac.navy.mil>.

A CD-ROM containing all of the data collected during the tests, a complete copy of the report and a 10-minute informational video can be obtained by calling Joseph E. Gott of NAVFAC or the National Institute of Building Sciences at (202) 289-7800.

# RTC Great Lakes scrubs the common cold

by Kimberly Allen, BUMED Public Affairs

GREAT LAKES, Ill. (NWSA) — The results are in: Recruits who wash up more often have fewer colds.

That's the finding of health care providers at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Ill., who started "Operation Stop Cough" to encourage recruits to wash their hands more often.

"Most recruits will have some form of upper respiratory illness (URI) during their eight weeks of boot camp. It may be a runny nose, sore throat or cough," said LCDR Margaret A. K.

Ryan, a preventive medicine physician. Recruits are susceptible to various types of URI because they share many common living areas.

According to Ryan, since the introduction of Operation Stop Cough, the number of patients with a URI has gone down by more than half. This past winter the recruit clinic saw 200 to 250 patients each week for colds, down from the previous year's numbers of as many as 500 patients per week.

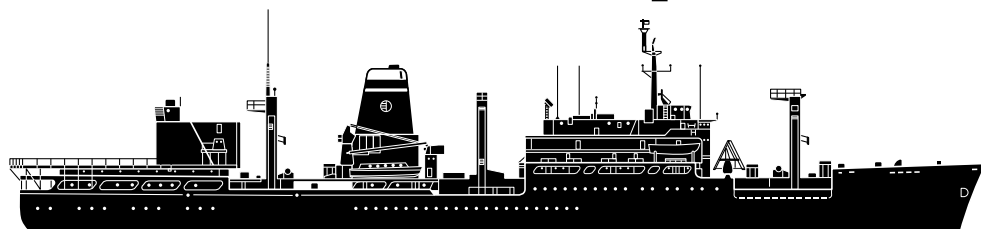
The reduction was expected because most germs are spread by hands through normal contacts. "Operation Stop Cough" encourages recruit divi-

sion commanders and recruits to wash their hands at least five times a day to reduce the possibility they will be infected and become ill.

Hand washing is just the first step in the war against the common cold. In the future, "Operation Stop Cough" may include initiatives to improve ventilation and air quality, as well as changes in training regimes and nutrition that might help.

"The less patients we see for upper respiratory illness, the more time they (recruits) are able to spend training for their future careers. This will allow the medical clinic to focus on more primary prevention issues," said Ryan.

# USNS *Saturn* escorts patrol boats across Atlantic



courtesy of Military Sealift Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — It was a long way between gas stations for three Navy coastal patrol boats crossing the Atlantic Ocean. The Military Sealift Command's (MSC) USNS *Sat-*

*urns* solved that problem by supplying fuel and supplies along the way.

The 175-foot long coastal patrol boats USS *Tempest* (PC 2), USS *Cyclone* (PC 1) and USS *Thunderbolt* (PC 12) arrived in Rota, Spain, May 12 for a six-month deployment. One of the

coastal patrol boats will head to the Baltics while the other two will work the Mediterranean Sea.

*Saturn* is beginning its own five-month deployment to the region.

"Having our ships do at-sea replenishments is cheaper than hiring a float-on/float-off ship and carrying them across the Atlantic," said CDR Allan Berke, MSC's Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force Program operations officer. "We'd like these little ships to become familiar customers."

## Battleships on Discovery Channel

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Fans of big guns and huge hulls can relive naval history when the Discovery Channel airs "Battleship." The two-hour documentary is scheduled to air June 8, 9 to 11 p.m. (ET/PT) and 1 to 3 p.m. (ET/PT).

Battleships *Missouri*, *Bismarck* and *Yamato* are among the featured ships in the program narrated by Hal Holbrook.

The program traces the history and exploits of the floating warriors from World War I search-and-destroy missions to recent engagements and modern roles in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

